in agricultural science technology should be set up. A small Tast Force should be set up to give a concrete shape to this concept, working out the financial implications, method of financing, the areas of activity etc. (Para 5.43)

53. For taking decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a reasonable timeframe, the report and views of DG, ICAR on the recommendations should be placed before ICAR Society within about a month. Matters requiring Cabinet approval should be put upto it within one month of the decision of the society. (Para 6.2)

54. An institutionalized arrangement should be made for monitoring the implementation of decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. A cell under senior Director level officer be created with in ICAR for this purpose. (Para 6.3)

Licensing procedure for aquaculture farms

1704. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests from States to expedite licencing procedure for aquaculture farms;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for delay in granting licences;

(d) whether Government have assessed the impact of non-issuing the licences on marine products exports in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for expediting issue of approvals for setting up of shrimp aquaculture farms in coastal areas. In response to this, the Aquaculture Authority has restricted the scrutiny of applications to the Departments of Groundwater, Revenue and Fisheries with regard to farms below five hectares.

(c) to (e) No assessment has been done on the impact of non-issuance of licence on marine products exports in the country. However, there is

no delay on the part of Aquaculture Authority in issuing approvals for shrimp aquaculture farms.

Banning import of poultry products

1705. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that poultry products are imported from various countries, including the countries where disease like Avian Influenza nare prevalent;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action to ban import of poultry products from such countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Import of all poultry products are allowed from various countries against Sanitary Import Permit after conducting the Risk Analysis on International Principles as per Notification No. 655(E) dated 7th July, 2001 issued under the provision of Livestock Importation Act, 1898 to prevent the ingress of exotic diseases. However, the import of all poultry products and live poultry has been prohibited from the countries where Avian Influenza has been reported as per Notification No. 801(E) dated 17.8.2001 issued under the provision of the said Act.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Decline in foodgrains output

1706. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a sharp decline in output of foodgrains during 2002-03 as reported in the Hindu' dated 12th February, 2003;